

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) A member for use in a vacuum bandage connected to a vacuum source and for use with a wound having a wound surface, the member comprising a top surface and a bottom surface adapted to be in contact with and generally conform to the wound surface,

a plurality of discrete holes formed in the bottom surface,

at least one discrete opening formed in the top surface, and

a port configured to communicate with the vacuum source, the port ~~communicating with the vacuum source~~, being in fluid communication with each discrete hole[[,]] and the at least one discrete ~~opening~~, opening,

wherein the member is formed from a material that is generally non-porous, generally non-foam-like, and generally non-absorptive.

2. (currently amended) The member of claim 1, ~~further including wherein the member comprises~~ a wound contacting layer ~~having channels formed therein~~, and a cover coupled to the wound contacting layer, wherein the wound contacting layer includes the bottom surface adapted to be in contact with and generally conform to the wound surface and an upper surface having a plurality of channels formed therein, and wherein the cover engages with the upper surface of the wound contacting layer and cooperates with the channels of the wound contacting layer to define passageways between the port and each discrete hole and between the port and the at least one discrete opening.

3. (original) The member of claim 2, wherein the cover has a first surface area and the wound contacting layer has a second surface area larger than the first surface area, and wherein the channels of the wound contacting layer extend beyond an outer edge of the cover to define a plurality of the discrete openings.

4. (original) The member of claim 2, wherein the cover includes a plurality of discrete holes in communication with the channels of the wound contacting layer to define a plurality of the discrete openings.

5. (original) The member of claim 1, wherein the member includes an outer peripheral portion including the at least one discrete opening.

6. (currently amended) The member of claim 1, ~~wherein the member is formed from a generally non-porous material~~ 5, wherein the at least one discrete opening is positioned to engage an undermined portion of the wound.

7. (original) The member of claim 6, wherein the member is relatively thin and flexible.

8. (currently amended) A bandage connectable to a vacuum source for use with a wound having a wound surface, the bandage comprising

a port configured to communicate with the vacuum source,

a wound contacting layer having a wound contacting surface adapted to be in contact with and generally conform to the wound surface, the wound contacting layer including a plurality of discrete channels in communication with the port and a plurality of discrete holes each in communication with one of the channels, and

a cover coupled to the wound contacting layer to cooperate with the channels of the wound contacting layer to define passageways connecting each hole with the port, the cover having a first surface area and the wound contacting layer having a second surface area, the first surface area being smaller than the second surface area to define an outer peripheral portion of the wound contacting layer configured to communicate with an undermined portion of the wound[.], wherein the wound contacting layer is formed from a material that is generally non-porous, generally non-foam-like, and generally non-absorptive.

9. (original) A member for use in a vacuum bandage connected to a vacuum source and for use with a wound having a wound surface, the member comprising

a wound contacting surface adapted to be in contact with and generally conform to the wound surface,

a first plurality of discrete holes adapted to communicate with the wound surface,

a second plurality of discrete holes adapted to communicate negative pressure to an undermined portion of the wound, the member being formed from a generally non-porous material,

a port configured to communicate with the vacuum source, and

a passageway between each first discrete hole and the port and between each second discrete hole and the port.

10. (original) The member of claim 9, further including a wound contacting layer including the wound contacting surface and the first plurality of discrete holes and a cover coupled to the wound contacting layer including the plurality of second discrete holes.

11. (original) The member of claim 10, wherein the cover includes an outer peripheral portion and the second plurality of discrete holes are formed in the outer peripheral portion.

12. (cancelled)